

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 06968 201215Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5291

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

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CINCLANT

FEDERAL PREPAREDNESS AGENCY-GAS WASHDC

USDOC WASHDC

DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHDC

S E C R E T USNATO 6968

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: PRESS POLICY FOR EXERCISE HILEX 7

REF: A. USNATO 6901 DTG 161800Z DEC 75;

B. STATE 291140 DTG 102001Z DEC 75

1. COUNCIL OPERATIONS EXERCISE COMMITTEE (COEC) CHAIRMAN (MACBRIEN) CONVENED A COEC MEETING ON DECEMBER 19 TO DISCUSS THE PRESS GUIDANCE STATEMENT FOR EXERCISE HILEX 7.

2. CHAIRMAN OPENED DISCUSSION BY NOTING THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE GREEK DELEGATION STATING THAT GREECE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT PARTICIPATE IN HILEX 7. IN VIEW OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID THAT SOME MINOR MODIFICATIONS MIGHT BE
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 06968 201215Z

NECESSARY TO THE PRESS GUIDANCE STATEMENT PREPARED BY THE HIGH LEVEL EXERCISE PLANNING GROUP ON DECEMBER 15 (PARAS 6 AND 7 REF A).

3. A NUMBER OF OTHER COEC REPS, ESPECIALLY FRG REP (BROCK-MANN) AND THE NETHERLANDS REP (HOFFMAN) SUGGESTED OTHER MINOR MODIFICATIONS. AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION, COEC AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY TEXT (WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH WASHINGTON GUIDANCE REF B) TO BE USED BY SPOKESMAN AT NATO HQ AND IN CAPITALS, IF ASKED ABOUT HILEX 7.

QUOTE: NATO, AS AN ALLIANCE COVERING PHYSICALLY A LARGE GEOGRAPHIC AREA, REQUIRES TO PRACTICE COORDINATION OF ITS MILITARY AND CIVIL ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY SO THAT PROCEDURES AND COMMUNICATIONS WILL OPERATE EFFECTIVELY IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. EXERCISES ARE THEREFORE CONDUCTED REGULARLY ON A NATIONAL, MULTI-NATIONAL AND NATO-WIDE BASIS. IN HILEX, A ROUTINE EXERCISE TO BE CONDUCTED IN THE SPRING OF 1976, AND THE SEVENTH OF ITS KIND, PROCEDURES ONLY WILL BE TESTED AND NO FORCES WILL BE DEPLOYED. UNQUOTE.

NOTE: IF ASKED FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON HILEX 7 SUCH AS COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING, ETC, THE SPOKESMAN SHOULD SAY THAT THEY ARE NOT AT LIBERTY TO DISCLOSE FURTHER INFORMATION. END NOTE.

4. SINCE THE DPC HAD AGREED ON SEPTEMBER 23, 1975 (PARA 18, DPC/D(75)19) THAT NO PUBLICITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO HILEX 7, CHAIRMAN SAID THAT HE WILL SEND THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED PRESS GUIDANCE TO SYG FOR FINAL APPROVAL AND THEN CIRCULATE IT OVER THE NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TO ALL CAPITALS. BRUCE

SECRET

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